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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Burundi

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Burundi was held at the 7th meeting, on 18 January 2018. The delegation of Burundi was headed by the minister responsible for the rights of the person, social affairs and gender, Martin Nivyabandi. At its 14th meeting, held on 23 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Burundi.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Burundi: Côte d'Ivoire, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Burundi:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/BDI/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/BDI/2 and Corr.1);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/BDI/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Burundi through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the Burundian delegation expressed his country's pride at renewing its participation in the universal periodic review. The review was taking place just as Burundi was arriving at a decisive turning point in its history: the holding of a referendum on a new Constitution, with the ultimate aim of embedding and sustaining institutional stability and social cohesion in the country. The national report of Burundi was based primarily on the recommendations that had emerged during the second cycle of the review.

6. Burundi had pursued clear legislative reforms with a view to promoting and protecting human rights. The President of the Republic had promulgated several Acts, covering the current Code of Criminal Procedure; the regulation of public meetings and demonstrations; the Electoral Code; the establishment of the Special Land and Property Court; the punishment of trafficking in persons and protection of its victims; the protection of victims, witnesses and other persons at risk; the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence and protection of its victims; press regulation; and a legal framework for non-profit organizations.

7. On the institutional front, a framework for civic dialogue had been established in September 2015 with the creation of the National Commission for Dialogue among Burundians, which had recently submitted its final report on the consultations held throughout the country. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was operational and its branches had already carried out fieldwork so that the people of Burundi might engage in reflection and embrace a brighter future. All of society was committed to reconciliation and everything had been done to preserve unity.

8. Since its review during the second cycle, Burundi had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or

Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto. Burundi had held constructive dialogues with several treaty bodies, including the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

9. Concrete steps had been taken to improve the protection of children by establishing specialized juvenile chambers in regional courts. A telephone helpline that allowed children to report abuse was being piloted in Bujumbura with a view to being extended across the country and two rehabilitation centres for juveniles in conflict with the law had started activities. The National Children's Forum had been set up to provide a framework for consultations between the Government and children, while local-level child protection committees reported all cases of violations to the Government.

10. To relieve prison overcrowding, presidential pardons were granted regularly and the courts were expected to process cases swiftly. The prison service had established women's and girls' quarters in places of detention in order to ensure their dignity and protection.

11. Regarding girls' education, Burundi had made efforts to eliminate the discrimination arising from traditional attitudes, in particular by identifying girls who did not go to school or had dropped out of school and enrolling them in State schools. The duration of free primary education, which now included an introduction to entrepreneurship, had been extended to nine years in order to keep girls in school for longer and to gradually attain parity between girls and boys in secondary education.

12. Burundi was pursuing the "zero-tolerance" policy towards gender-based violence initiated by the President of the Republic. In addition to the pilot centre set up in 2012, new comprehensive care facilities had recently been established in three provinces. The current law on gender violence was bearing fruit and all actors were actively combating gender violence on the ground.

13. The Government had recently launched an extensive social safety net programme to reduce chronic poverty and was carrying out information, communication and education measures to encourage positive behaviours conducive to the improvement of nutrition, early childhood development, school attendance and financial literacy.

14. Recent steps to consolidate national human rights institutions included the establishment of the National Council for National Unity and Reconciliation and the National Observatory for the Prevention and Eradication of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity. The Government was currently finalizing its National Development Plan 2018–2027, a strategic guidance tool that ought to contribute effectively and constructively to increasing gross domestic product. The Government had set itself the goal of structurally transforming the economy to achieve strong, sustainable and inclusive growth.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

15. During the interactive dialogue, 96 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

16. Finland noted with concern the deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi and the authorities' acts against human rights defenders. It emphasized the importance of full cooperation with the United Nations and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi.

17. France, while noting positively the ratification of two conventions, expressed concern about the serious deterioration of the human rights situation since 2015.

18. Georgia called on Burundi to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry and ensure unhindered access by United Nations entities, including OHCHR.

19. Germany made recommendations.

20. Greece made recommendations.

21. Haiti took note of the efforts made by Burundi, despite the recent challenges, to improve the living conditions of the population.

22. Honduras congratulated Burundi for adopting a law on equal opportunities for persons with disabilities that envisioned inclusive education measures.

23. Hungary expressed deep concern about endemic impunity and human rights violations, including summary executions, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and sexual violence.

24. Iceland expressed grave concern about the human rights situation in Burundi.

25. India expressed appreciation for the State's ratification of several international human rights instruments and their incorporation into national law, and its adoption of the action plan relating to the gender policy.

26. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the ratification of international human rights instruments and cooperation with the treaty bodies.

27. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the law on the prevention of trafficking in persons, the amendment of the Act on the Criminal Procedure Code, and the establishment of the social protection fund.

28. Ireland expressed deep concern about reports of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and sexual violence perpetrated since 2015.

29. Italy expressed grave concern about the human rights situation in Burundi.

30. Belgium, while welcoming some achievements, expressed worry about the human rights situation, in particular the plight of human rights defenders and journalists.

31. Latvia welcomed the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures, while expressing regret that a number of visit requests had not been accepted.

32. Libya commended Burundi for ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

33. Liechtenstein expressed concern that the independence of the National Independent Human Rights Commission might be jeopardized. It also expressed concern about the exacerbation of violence, particularly against women, and the withdrawal from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

34. Madagascar welcomed the measures taken to promote and protect human rights, including the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Commission for the Inter-Burundian Dialogue.

35. Malaysia welcomed the commitment of Burundi to improve socioeconomic development, as well as the State's efforts to promote gender equality and address gender-based violence.

36. Maldives welcomed the adoption of laws on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking and the protection of victims of trafficking, and the establishment of a related national committee.

37. Mauritania encouraged Burundi to continue efforts to strengthen the participation of women in public life and to take all measures necessary to strengthen the independence of justice.

38. Mexico noted the adoption of a national strategy to combat gender violence.

39. Montenegro expressed concern about widespread use of torture, unlawful detention and extrajudicial killings, and about numerous attacks and acts of intimidation against opposition and civil society members, human rights defenders and journalists.

40. Nepal expressed appreciation for the State's serious efforts to improve socioeconomic conditions and protect human rights. It encouraged Burundi to cooperate with OHCHR and international human rights mechanisms.

41. The Netherlands expressed serious concern about the general lack of progress on human rights, including with respect to the continuing shrinkage of space for media and the rising hostility towards, and intimidation of, journalists.

42. New Zealand welcomed the new law targeting sexual violence.

43. Norway was gravely concerned about the rampant human rights violations in Burundi.

44. Pakistan welcomed, inter alia, political measures on legal aid, the gender units of various ministries, and the special courts for juveniles and for gender-based violence.

45. Poland welcomed the law on human trafficking and the respective national action plan. It expressed concern about the State's withdrawal from the Rome Statute and the suspension of its cooperation with OHCHR.

46. Portugal welcomed efforts to promote gender equality. It expressed regret that Burundi had withdrawn from the Rome Statute, and expressed concern about reports of human rights violations.

47. The Republic of Korea expressed concern about the recent civil and political situation in Burundi, which jeopardized the rule of law, about the suspension of cooperation with OHCHR and about the detention of returnees.

48. The Republic of Moldova expressed regret about the suspended cooperation with OHCHR and the rejection of mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. It expressed concern about the exacerbation of violence against women, including sexual violence.

49. The Russian Federation welcomed steps to ensure the realization of economic and social rights, to adopt legislation banning the use of torture, to reform education and to raise awareness of discrimination against persons with albinism.

50. Rwanda remained gravely concerned at the deterioration in the human rights situation. It called on Burundi to investigate gross and systematic human rights violations and restore cooperation with the United Nations mechanisms.

51. Senegal welcomed the ratification of international instruments, the adoption of legislation on human trafficking and the revision of the labour code aimed at reinforcing the rights of women at work.

52. Sierra Leone applauded the measures taken to raise awareness of and support persons with albinism. It encouraged Burundi to establish a mechanism to hold accountable those accused of crimes against humanity.

53. Slovenia remained concerned about the overall human rights situation, and encouraged Burundi to extend to OHCHR the commitment it had demonstrated under the universal periodic review process.

54. South Africa commended the State's efforts to prevent trafficking in persons and gender-based violence, to train judges and police officers to prevent torture, and to reduce the number of young people in detention.

55. Spain made recommendations.

56. Sri Lanka welcomed efforts to ratify international instruments and implement the national gender policy action plan covering the period from 2012 to 2016.

57. The head of the Burundian delegation stated that the situation in his country had improved noticeably since 2015. In respect of the concerns expressed about the protection of human rights defenders, he said that such persons were not considered a distinct category and that they were not prosecuted because of their status. If they committed offences, they were punished in the same way as any other person. The judiciary had asked some defenders to explain themselves on account of their participation in the insurrectional movement and the attempted coup d'état of 2015. Some media outlets, on the other hand, remained closed because the people in charge of them had refused to cooperate with the judiciary. New radio stations had begun broadcasting and there were now a total of 25 stations that respected professional ethics.

58. Regarding cooperation with OHCHR, the Government had held frequent meetings with that entity with a view to reaching an agreement in the interests of all, allowing OHCHR to contribute to the strengthening of human rights in cooperation with national institutions and civil society organizations. Many of the 6,000-plus associations registered by the Ministry of the Interior and Patriotic Training were working to protect human rights.

59. Burundi had invoked its prerogative of sovereignty in withdrawing from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Having thoroughly analysed the situation, the Government had concluded that withdrawal from the Statute would neither jeopardize the independence of the judiciary nor prevent the prosecution of crimes at the national level, since the crimes in question were provided for under domestic legislation. The Government had committed to addressing such crimes.

60. Regarding the mobilization of resources, Burundi was a low-income country which nevertheless had great potential. The Government had asked its various partners to reconsider the positions they had taken regarding the imposition of sanctions. Burundi was undertaking good governance efforts in order to attain budgetary independence. Despite difficulties, the Government had continued to deliver a programme of free health care for children under 5 and pregnant women and a programme of free primary education.

61. Persons with disabilities were a priority for the Government. A law on the status of persons with disabilities, developed in cooperation with associations, had been adopted to improve the situation of all persons with disabilities.

62. The achievement of gender parity in the Government depended on education, so that it was necessary to promote education in order to gradually achieve that goal. Parity had been established in primary education and had almost been achieved in secondary education, while efforts were being made to ensure that women were better represented in higher education. Following the conclusion of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, a minimum proportion of 30 per cent had been set for women's participation in elective institutions and in the Government.

63. Many laws existed to combat impunity. The right to equitable justice was guaranteed under the Constitution. Notwithstanding limited resources, everything was done so that Burundians could have access to legal assistance.

64. Burundi had ratified the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and the Government was working to ensure that no Burundian would fall victim to trafficking, including by concluding agreements with several countries.

65. The Government had made a great effort to protect the rights of the Batwa. That community was represented in the National Assembly and the Senate, as well as in the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender to ensure the gradual integration of its members into the executive branch.

66. On the issue of stateless persons, the Nationality Act of 2000 was clear: any person born in Burundi was a Burundian. A National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons had been established to handle any and all cases of statelessness.

67. The Independent National Human Rights Commission enjoyed A status in respect of the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), which confirmed the Commission's independence.

68. Early and forced marriages were not a concern for Burundi, since on that issue the country's Family Code was extremely clear. The Government continued to actively support the global eradication of the phenomenon.

69. The State of Palestine encouraged Burundi to reassess its decision on ending its relations with OHCHR, and explore the possibility of reaching an agreement with the latter.

70. The Sudan welcomed the ratification of international human rights instruments and the measures taken in the field of education.

71. Sweden made recommendations.

72. Switzerland expressed worry about the serious deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi, and recalled the importance of free participation by civil society in the universal periodic review process.

73. The Syrian Arab Republic commended the support given to human rights institutions, including the National Independent Human Rights Commission and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

74. Thailand welcomed the legislation on gender-based violence and the establishment of centres focused on gender-based violence, special court chambers and regional offices of the National Independent Human Rights Commission.

75. Timor-Leste welcomed the national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, the revision of the Labour Code in support of women's rights and the prioritization of gender equality in combating poverty.

76. Togo welcomed legislative efforts in preventing human trafficking and gender-based violence, and encouraged Burundi to pay particular attention to those most vulnerable.

77. Tunisia noted with satisfaction the adoption of the law aimed at protecting women from violence, and encouraged Burundi to continue its efforts to strengthen the rule of law.

78. Turkmenistan noted positively the ratification of human rights instruments, and the implementation of gender-related national action plans, which had led to the reduction of cases of gender-based violence.

79. Ukraine expressed concern about continued reports of human rights violations and the lack of action to fight impunity. It deeply regretted the suspension of all cooperation with OHCHR.

80. The United Kingdom remained extremely concerned by the Commission of Inquiry's findings on the issue of crimes against humanity. It strongly objected to acts of reprisal or intimidation committed against human rights defenders, including in relation to the universal periodic review process.

81. The United States was extremely concerned by the serious human rights violations and abuses and the impunity in which they were committed, and the continued restrictions on political and civic space for various actors.

82. Uruguay expressed hope that some of the adopted initiatives would contribute to combating gender-based violence and inequality. It noted the vulnerability of some minorities. It urged Burundi to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

83. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the increased political representation of women, the law on preventing gender-based violence and protecting victims, and the housing and urbanization policy.

84. Zambia was concerned about the number of women detained with young children, and the lack of social care or protection for children separated from their detained mothers.

85. Afghanistan welcomed the implementation of the law on punishment of gender-based violence, and the establishment of gender units in ministries and special court chambers for young people and for cases of gender-based violence.

86. Albania stated that, especially since 2015, Burundi had been facing ongoing challenges connected to persistent violence, and expressed disappointment about the plight of human rights defenders.

87. Algeria noted positively that gender equality was among the main priorities in the framework of the poverty reduction strategy, and welcomed the measures taken in support of vulnerable persons.

88. Angola stated that Burundi had implemented recommendations accepted during the second cycle of the review by ratifying some international instruments, while noting that it still faced many challenges in guaranteeing the enjoyment of human rights.

89. Argentina expressed concern about the human rights violations committed in Burundi.

90. Australia remained concerned about ongoing disappearances, arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial executions, sexual violence and the "official hunt" for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

91. Austria, while noting some positive measures, remained deeply concerned about persisting serious human rights violations in Burundi, including arbitrary arrests and detention, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, torture and sexual violence.

92. Azerbaijan acknowledged the progress made, including the ratification of international instruments. It welcomed efforts in combating gender-based violence, and ensuring the rights to health and to education.

93. Bahrain encouraged Burundi to strengthen its national mechanism for reporting and follow-up in relation to international and regional human rights mechanisms and treaty obligations, with a particular focus on discrimination against women.

94. Belarus noted the State's cooperation with treaty bodies, and stated that its efforts to strengthen security and enhance economic growth and development should be supported by the international community.

95. Japan, while welcoming the increased level of women's participation in political life, expressed concern about the forcible displacement of about 400,000 Burundians to neighbouring countries, as at August 2017.

96. Benin welcomed the legislative reforms aimed at protecting women and children from violence and trafficking. It urged the international community to support Burundi in strengthening peace and security and promoting economic social development.

97. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the legal progress and prioritization of gender equality in combating poverty. It encouraged further efforts to ensure women's access to land, to promote peace and to end violence.

98. Botswana noted the State's efforts to promote and protect human rights, including in the area of gender-based violence. It raised concerns about the suspension of cooperation with OHCHR.

99. Brazil noted the measures taken to ensure food security and to fight hunger, and welcomed the progress made in combating HIV/AIDS.

100. Canada stated that all persons in Burundi, including human rights defenders, should be able to fully exercise their freedoms of expression, association and assembly, and to have confidence that impunity for serious crimes would cease to prevail.

101. Chad encouraged Burundi to continue implementing gender-related national action plans, and welcomed the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the ratification of international instruments.

102. Chile was concerned about the overall human rights situation and the suspension of cooperation with OHCHR and the Commission of Inquiry. It expressed alarm at the plight of human rights defenders.

103. China commended Burundi for the progress made in several areas. It called on the international community to evaluate the State's positive efforts objectively, and to provide Burundi with constructive assistance.

104. Costa Rica invited Burundi to continue its work to reduce impunity and violence. It urged Burundi to reconsider its withdrawal from the Rome Statute and its suspension of cooperation with OHCHR.

105. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the legislative and administrative reforms undertaken to promote and protect human rights. It encouraged Burundi to continue its efforts towards national reconciliation and social cohesion.

106. Croatia urged Burundi to review its policy of refusing to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry and to cease threatening its members. It expressed concern about various human rights violations committed in the country.

107. Cuba noted measures related to health care for children and women, free primary education, and education for girls, including the strategy on gender equality in education and its action plan.

108. Cyprus, while noting the ratification of two international instruments, expressed deep concern about the grave human rights situation that had prevailed since 2015, as documented, most notably, by the Commission of Inquiry.

109. Czechia expressed appreciation for the State's presentation, which gave an overview of the human rights situation in the country.

110. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed the adoption of a number of legislative measures, the strengthening of the institutional framework and the ratification of international instruments.

111. Denmark was extremely concerned by the State's withdrawal from the International Criminal Court, its opposition to the Court's investigation and its suspension of cooperation with OHCHR and the Commission of Inquiry.

112. Ecuador congratulated Burundi for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.

113. Egypt welcomed the State's efforts to promote human rights, the consolidation of structures to protect human rights and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

114. Estonia called on Burundi to cooperate with international human rights monitoring mechanisms and allow them unimpeded access to its territory, and to continue cooperation with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

115. Ethiopia commended Burundi for the progress made at the normative and institutional levels, including in relation to the realization of the right to education.

116. Morocco noted measures taken to strengthen the legal framework, such as the adoption of the Act on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence and protection of its victims, among others.

117. The Holy See noted efforts to improve the education system, while expressing concern about the massive number of refugees from Burundi living outside the country, many in deplorable conditions.

118. Ghana welcomed the promulgation of several laws aimed at promoting and protecting human rights, and the ratification of international instruments.

119. Myanmar welcomed the measures taken to promote education for girls and the inclusion of gender equity in the 2012 education strategy, as well as efforts to improve health-care services.

120. Namibia expressed concern about the circumstances surrounding the current relations between Burundi and OHCHR. It took note of the positive legislative developments since the previous review.

121. Gabon noted the State's efforts to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights by strengthening the legal and institutional framework, and encouraged it to pursue further efforts.

122. Burkina Faso noted some achievements, and encouraged Burundi to intensify its efforts in several areas, including national reconciliation and cooperation with the Human Rights Council and all its mechanisms.

123. Mozambique noted the ratification of various conventions. It welcomed the reports submitted to three treaty bodies, and the strengthening of the institutional framework.

124. The head of the Burundian delegation, in response to references to the arrests of persons, pointed out that the domestic justice system had been inherited from the colonial period. Improvements had been made in the wake of national consultations and had led to the amendment of the Constitution.

125. He emphasized that acts of torture had been categorized as offences under the Code of Criminal Procedure. The prosecuting authorities conducted investigations and offenders were punished in accordance with the law on the basis of evidence.

126. With regard to climate change, Burundi had actively participated in the efforts that had led to the Paris Agreement. Environmentally friendly measures, such as banning non-biodegradable products, would be adopted.

127. A steering committee had been set up to tackle the issue of malnutrition, especially to help children and pregnant women.

128. Members of the Imbonerakure — the youth league of the ruling party — who committed offences were punished individually. Similarly, any misconduct by police officers or members of the military was punished individually. One hundred and fifty cases had been identified and 120 officers had been dismissed.

129. Regarding the prison system, steps had been taken to improve the situation of pregnant and breastfeeding women to avoid placing them in pretrial detention, except in serious cases.

130. The head of delegation recalled that Burundi did not recognize same-sex relationships.

131. Between August and October 2017, 7,011 people had been repatriated and 13,229 had been repatriated from Tanzania with assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. There had been 163,541 cases of spontaneous repatriation. Following repatriation, returnees received assistance from the Government. Efforts were being made to persuade all those who had left the country to return .

132. The head of delegation expressed support for the standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders, of course within the bounds of legality. He ruled out any cooperation with the experts of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, as he considered that its mandate was illegal and that it was a political instrument.

133. In respect of the national gender policy, Burundi was working to draw up a dedicated action plan, considering that it was an important issue.

134. Exiles would be able to take part in forthcoming elections by registering with the diplomatic missions in the countries where they lived.

135. The Government had dealt with corruption in the justice system as a matter of priority. Judges and prosecutors who were accused of corruption were punished in accordance with the law. That approach fell under the scope of the national good governance and anti-corruption strategy.

136. The head of the delegation concluded by thanking the many delegations that had made recommendations and offered encouragements to his country. Burundi remained firmly committed to the protection of human rights and would always accept cooperation, but not paternalism, in that sphere. The recommendations that were accepted would be dealt with by an interministerial follow-up mechanism and by a dedicated department of the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

137. **The following recommendations will be examined by Burundi, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

137.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Georgia) (Honduras) (South Africa) (Spain); accede to the**

first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Canada);

137.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium) (Croatia) (Georgia) (Honduras) (Montenegro) (South Africa) (Spain) (Togo);**

137.3 **Formally abolish the death penalty, and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

137.4 **Sign the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Albania);**

137.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);**

137.6 **Intensify efforts to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**

137.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Croatia);**

137.8 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras) (Sierra Leone);**

137.9 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

137.10 **Continue taking steps towards the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by enhancing the knowledge and capacity of related national authorities (Indonesia);**

137.11 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras) (Morocco) (Spain) (Togo) (Ukraine); accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

137.12 **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);**

137.13 **Accede again and without delay to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and incorporate it into national legislation (Austria);**

137.14 **Re-adhere to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and align national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**

137.15 **Reconsider its withdrawal from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Liechtenstein);**

137.16 **Reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute (Croatia);**

137.17 **Reconsider the decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Portugal);**

137.18 **Reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute and cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court in the ongoing investigation (Cyprus);**

137.19 **Reconsider the withdrawal from the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with international mechanisms, including the Commission**

of Inquiry on Burundi established by the Human Rights Council, allowing it to carry out visits to the country and providing it with all the information necessary to fulfil its mandate (Italy);

137.20 **Expedite the ratification of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Sierra Leone);**

137.21 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Togo);**

137.22 **Implement the recent recommendations of treaty bodies (Cyprus);**

137.23 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process for selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

137.24 **Respond positively to the pending visit requests from the special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);**

137.25 **Respond positively to requests for visits from United Nations special rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Zambia);**

137.26 **Guarantee free access for special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Costa Rica);**

137.27 **Step up efforts to finalize the memorandum of understanding with OHCHR, thereby establishing cooperation with the Office (Botswana);**

137.28 **Finalize swiftly the memorandum of understanding with OHCHR (Ukraine);**

137.29 **Fast-track the process leading to the finalization of the memorandum of understanding with OHCHR with a view to restoring cooperation with the Office (Namibia);**

137.30 **Re-establish relations with OHCHR and conclude the outstanding memorandum of understanding on the status of the office of OHCHR in Bujumbura (Germany);**

137.31 **Re-establish contact with OHCHR, ensure unhindered access to all human rights mechanisms and guarantee that those cooperating with the United Nations will not be subjected to reprisals (Republic of Moldova);**

137.32 **Urgently resume its cooperation with OHCHR, and grant country access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (Ireland);**

137.33 **Resume full cooperation and collaboration with OHCHR in Burundi to allow the High Commissioner to fulfil his mandate free from any interference (Ghana);**

137.34 **Resume swiftly formal cooperation with OHCHR in Bujumbura (Belgium);**

137.35 **Resume working with OHCHR in the country (Portugal);**

137.36 **Resume cooperation with OHCHR and continue to cooperate with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (Honduras);**

137.37 **Restore immediately cooperation with OHCHR and grant access to the Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (Rwanda);**[1]

[1] The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: "Immediately restore cooperation with the Office of the [United Nations] High Commissioner for Human Rights and accord access … to the Human Rights Council."

137.38 Re-establish cooperation and collaboration with OHCHR and the Commission of Inquiry by allowing their members unhindered access to the country and relevant sites and people (Albania);

137.39 Cooperate fully with OHCHR by restoring the full mandate of its office in Bujumbura (Switzerland);

137.40 Cooperate with OHCHR, in line with Human Rights Council resolution 36/2 and as accepted by Burundi (Tunisia);

137.41 Implement Human Rights Council resolution 36/2, adopted on 28 September 2017 (Tunisia);

137.42 Fulfil its obligation as a member of the Human Rights Council and fully cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi and with the team of three United Nations experts, and with the International Criminal Court, including by granting access (Germany);

137.43 Allow OHCHR to resume its documentation of human rights violations in the country (Cyprus);

137.44 Allow OHCHR in Burundi and the Commission of Inquiry to conduct their work without undue interference or threat (United States of America);

137.45 Explore opportunities of partnership with OHCHR with a view to benefiting from relevant assistance and support from the Office (Azerbaijan);

137.46 Cooperate with the United Nations Commission of Inquiry, as well as with OHCHR, with a view to improving the human rights situation on the ground and promoting accountability (Brazil);

137.47 Cooperate with the Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry and allow its members unhindered access to the country, including to victims of human rights violations and abuses (Hungary);

137.48 Cooperate with the United Nations Commission of Inquiry, and the International Criminal Court's investigation, to help ensure that perpetrators of abuse are brought to justice (Australia);

137.49 Offer full cooperation to the Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry on Burundi to conduct unhindered visits to the country, and provide it with all the information and assistance necessary to fulfil its mandate (Czechia);

137.50 Permit immediately the Commission of Inquiry to enter Burundi to conduct its investigation, as mandated by the Human Rights Council (Denmark);

137.51 Give full and unhindered access in the country to the Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council, and fully cooperate with the Commission (Norway);

137.52 Fulfil its obligation to cooperate with the investigation of the International Criminal Court (Canada);

137.53 Comply with its legal obligations by fully cooperating with the International Criminal Court in all stages of the recently opened investigation and proceedings (Liechtenstein);

137.54 Allow and enable the conducting of investigations by the International Criminal Court, which were launched before Burundi's withdrawal from the Court (Poland);

137.55 Allow investigations by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to be carried out unhindered (Denmark);

137.56 Fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court's investigation regarding crimes within the Court's jurisdiction and allegedly committed in Burundi, or by Burundian nationals outside Burundi, between 26 April 2015 and 26 October 2017 (Sweden);

137.57 Improve its cooperation with United Nations mechanisms, in particular by implementing Security Council resolution 2303 (2016), by resuming cooperation with OHCHR, cooperating with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi and reconsidering its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute (Greece);

137.58 Make progress with regard to the implementation of Security Council resolution 2303 (2016), cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry and respond positively to visit requests from United Nations special rapporteurs (Austria);

137.59 Consider resuming cooperation with United Nations mechanisms, in particular, the Human Rights Council and OHCHR (Senegal);

137.60 Fulfil its obligations and fully cooperate with United Nations mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry, set up by the Human Rights Council (Slovenia);

137.61 Fully cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi and, in particular, refrain from any acts of reprisal or intimidation against those who cooperate with such mechanisms (New Zealand);

137.62 Resume cooperation with the mechanisms of the United Nations system on the protection and promotion of human rights (Chile);

137.63 Resume its cooperation with the United Nations in addressing human rights violations, including in relation to refugee issues (Republic of Korea);

137.64 Further reinforce its cooperation with the United Nations system in the field of human rights (Côte d'Ivoire);

137.65 Re-establish cooperation with all international human rights, investigating and judicial mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (Poland);

137.66 Ensure unhindered access by United Nations entities, including OHCHR and the Commission of Inquiry, to all areas, and continue cooperating with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (Iceland);

137.67 Allow independent international and regional human rights investigators full and free access to investigate allegations of extrajudicial execution and mass grave sites (Iceland);

137.68 Ensure full cooperation with all internationally recognized human rights bodies and mechanisms (Afghanistan);

137.69 Maintain full cooperation with international human rights mechanisms (Ukraine);

137.70 Continue to cooperate with all regional and international mechanisms on protection and promotion of human rights (Angola);

137.71 Continue cooperation with the African Union mechanisms on human rights (South Africa);

137.72 Engage constructively with the opposition to find a solution to the crisis in Burundi that is conducive to free, fair and peaceful elections in 2020 (Norway);

137.73 Commit to comprehensive dialogue involving all stakeholders, as it is crucial to ensure that a free, fair and transparent presidential election is conducted peacefully in 2020 (Japan);

137.74 **Engage in open and constructive dialogue with all stakeholders to end the political impasse, and take steps to ensure inclusive and equal participation in political decision-making (Australia);**

137.75 **Pursue its work to uphold the efforts of national mechanisms for Burundi-wide dialogue and reconciliation (Belarus);**

137.76 **Ensure that all groups of citizens, including the members of opposition currently in exile, can freely and safely participate in the constitutional referendum, and discontinue the practice of systematic and illegal detention of returnees upon their arrival at the border (Czechia);**

137.77 **Initiate an unbiased mediation of the conflict and establish well-monitored democratic processes that include all sectors of society by promoting political and social reconciliation and respect for freedom of religion (Holy See);**

137.78 **Ensure that the National Independent Human Rights Commission is in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Liechtenstein);**

137.79 **Further strengthen the National Independent Human Rights Commission by ensuring its independence, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Thailand);**

137.80 **Take all necessary steps to ensure the independence of the National Independent Human Rights Commission of Burundi (Afghanistan);**

137.81 **Take all necessary action, including the provision of resources, to ensure the credibility and independence of the National Independent Human Rights Commission (Namibia);**

137.82 **Strengthen the role of the National Independent Human Rights Commission (Morocco);**

137.83 **Continue strengthening national human rights institutions and mechanisms (Nepal);**

137.84 **Establish a national preventive mechanism regarding torture, to ensure investigation and prosecution of extrajudicial killings and torture and to hold perpetrators, including State agents, to account (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

137.85 **Establish an effective torture prevention mechanism in accordance with the obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Montenegro);**

137.86 **Consider establishing an independent mechanism tasked with preventing acts of torture (Senegal);**

137.87 **Establish an effective torture prevention mechanism (Holy See);**

137.88 **Pursue its work to enhance the capacity of bodies in charge of prohibition of torture (Russian Federation);**

137.89 **Take measures to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency in the public service of the country (Azerbaijan);**

137.90 **Guarantee the respect of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the whole population (Argentina);**

137.91 **Take measures, in collaboration with the international community, to create an environment in which the people of Burundi can enjoy all human rights (Japan);**

137.92 **Implement measures to eradicate discriminatory practices against ethnic, political and religious minorities (Uruguay);**

137.93 **Decriminalize homosexuality (Iceland) (Timor-Leste);**

137.94 **Decriminalize homosexuality and abolish practices that promote discrimination based on sexual orientation (Ecuador);**

137.95 **Take steps to decriminalize same-sex relations (Australia);**

137.96 **Take measures to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between same-sex adults, guaranteeing the full respect for human rights of all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity (Uruguay);**

137.97 **Take the necessary measures to repeal the legal provisions that criminalize and discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Argentina);**

137.98 **Establish legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Australia);**

137.99 **Ensure non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, in line with Burundi's national and international human rights obligations (Chile);**

137.100 **Strengthen the effort to better protect the rights of its citizens from the impact of climate change, through State-sponsored strategies, action plans and disaster risk management (Indonesia);**

137.101 **Put an end to the gross human rights violations carried out in a context of impunity and the lack of independence of the judiciary, in particular violations to the right to life, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detention and enforced disappearances (France);**

137.102 **Put an immediate end to extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and other serious human rights violations (Chile);**

137.103 **Take urgent measures to put an end to extrajudicial execution and acts of torture (Georgia);**

137.104 **Ensure that members of the country's defence and security forces respect human rights under all circumstances (Cyprus);**

137.105 **Ensure respect for human rights by security forces (Spain);**

137.106 **Issue orders to the police, the military and the Imbonerakure to refrain from all forms of violence, in particular against women, and ensure accountability for perpetrators of such violence (Liechtenstein);**

137.107 **Take prompt action to prevent the Imbonerakure from continuing its abuse and illegal activities (Norway);**

137.108 **Continue efforts to end violence and preserve the sovereignty and independence of the State as a necessity for sustainable peace and development (Syrian Arab Republic);**

137.109 **Call for the immediate end of all forms of torture and set up an independent mechanism to investigate complaints of torture and ill-treatment (Hungary);**

137.110 **Take legislative measures to put an end to corporal punishment in all settings (Zambia);**

137.111 **Cease immediately torture and other ill-treatment of detainees and allow them to have a fair trial (Albania);**

137.112 **Take appropriate measures to align the conditions of detainees with international standards, including by preventing and combating torture and other ill-treatment of persons in custody (Italy);**

137.113 **Take further steps to improve the condition and treatment of female detainees, pregnant prisoners and children born in prison (Thailand);**

137.114 **Conduct immediately a review of the legality of detention of arbitrarily arrested persons (Republic of Korea);**

137.115 **As follow-up to the recommendation contained in paragraph 126.87 of the report of the Working Group from the second cycle (A/HRC/23/9), devise and implement a strategy to improve and reduce the duration of police custody and pretrial detention (Haiti);**

137.116 **Ensure due investigation into the findings of the Commission of Inquiry with regard to gross human rights violations and international crimes, and ensure that alleged perpetrators are promptly prosecuted through credible, independent and fair judicial procedures (Sweden);**

137.117 **Undertake immediate and independent investigations into allegations of extrajudicial execution, excessive use of force by security forces, forced disappearance and arbitrary detention and, where there is sufficient admissible evidence, prosecute those responsible (Netherlands);**

137.118 **Undertake independent, effective and impartial investigations into all allegations of serious human rights violations, such as extrajudicial executions and excessive use of force by security forces, intelligence services and the Imbonerakure, and prosecute those responsible (Germany);**

137.119 **Conduct prompt and impartial investigations into unlawful acts committed by security forces and Imbonerakure youth, such as extrajudicial execution, arbitrary arrest and torture of members of the opposition, journalists, civil society activists and persons perceived as having supported the opposition and their families (Czechia);**

137.120 **Take measures for the effective investigation of serious human rights violations committed by all parties in the conflict, including State authorities, and ensure that members of the armed and security forces have the necessary training to respect the rights of the population (Mexico);**

137.121 **Investigate allegations of extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, abductions and torture committed by security forces and prosecute perpetrators (Poland);**

137.122 **Undertake immediately independent, effective and impartial investigations into allegations of extrajudicial executions and unlawful and excessive use of force by security forces, and where there is sufficient admissible evidence, prosecute those suspected of being responsible (Finland);**

137.123 **Investigate, prosecute lawfully and, if they are convicted, adequately punish those guilty of human rights violations, including those committed against human rights defenders, members of civil society and the press, as well as against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (Greece);**

137.124 **Promptly investigate extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, torture and sexual violence, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Norway);**

137.125 **Investigate violations and abuses of human rights and ensure that those responsible are held accountable (United States of America);**

137.126 **Conduct effective investigations into all allegations of acts of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment in its detention centres (Zambia);**

137.127 **Take the necessary measures to investigate acts of violence and all human rights violations as well as to sanction the perpetrators (Argentina);**

137.128 **Investigate and hold to account perpetrators of extrajudicial killings (Australia);**

137.129 **Conduct investigations and prosecute alleged perpetrators of extrajudicial killings (Austria);**

137.130 Conduct prompt and impartial investigations of all crimes against journalists (Georgia);

137.131 Put an end to impunity by investigating and prosecuting all human rights violations, allowing the national human rights commission to take independent action and cooperating with the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court (Spain);

137.132 Combat impunity by undertaking independent, effective and impartial investigations into allegations of extrajudicial executions and unlawful and excessive use of force, and allowing independent international and regional human rights investigators full and free access to investigate allegations of extrajudicial executions and mass grave sites (New Zealand);

137.133 Intensify its efforts to combat impunity by conducting thorough, independent and impartial investigations of alleged violations and abuses identified by its national commission of human rights (Brazil);

137.134 Close the impunity gap and ensure that all perpetrators of atrocity crimes are held accountable in national courts or at the International Criminal Court (Liechtenstein);

137.135 Step up efforts to fight impunity and establish effective mechanisms that immediately ensure the respect and fulfilment of human rights (Costa Rica);

137.136 Continue its efforts to combat impunity for the perpetrators of acts of torture (Angola);

137.137 Make all the necessary efforts to fight against impunity and guarantee that perpetrators are punished (Portugal);

137.138 Bring to justice without delay all perpetrators of acts of torture and of any other human rights violations (Switzerland);

137.139 Fight impunity for the perpetrators of gross human rights violations (France);

137.140 Ensure accountability for grave human rights violations (Ukraine);

137.141 Take measures to ensure accountability following the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Republic of Korea);

137.142 Establish a judicial mechanism to follow the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to end impunity and to ensure that human rights violations are prosecuted (Germany);

137.143 Ensure that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission can properly discharge its mandate (Sudan);

137.144 Establish a special tribunal, as provided for in the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, or another similar and appropriate judicial instrument (Greece);

137.145 Set up a judicial mechanism to prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or other gross human rights violations or serious violations of international humanitarian law (Estonia);

137.146 Take all appropriate measures to address the issue of impunity and implement a fully transparent and equitable judicial system, in line with international standards (Italy);

137.147 Combat corruption and impunity at all levels of the criminal justice system (Ecuador);

137.148 Continue training judges and law enforcement officials in order to promote justice, while urging the international community and partners to make more technical and financial efforts (Sudan);

137.149 Take measures to strengthen efforts in increasing the number of judges and prosecutors, with a view to curbing extended pretrial detention (Botswana);

137.150 Fully respect, protect and fulfil the rights to freedom of expression and of assembly, including by lifting restrictive provisions of the Penal Code Act, the 2015 press law, and the Law on public gatherings to conform with regional and international human rights obligations (New Zealand);

137.151 Fully respect freedom of expression and assembly, reopen independent media, and put an end to the persecution of human rights defenders, civil society actors and opposition politicians (Norway);

137.152 Ensure respect of the right to freedom of expression, in particular for the independent press and human rights defenders (France);

137.153 Guarantee fully freedom of expression and the press, and freedom of assembly and association, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);

137.154 Guarantee the full exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and association and ensure a safe environment conducive to the work of human rights defenders and civil society organizations (Italy);

137.155 Ensure the respect of the freedoms of association, assembly and protest, in particular for human rights defenders (France);

137.156 Lift the legal and financial measures targeting human rights defenders and journalists and, in the short term, take all necessary measures to prevent acts of harassment and violence against them, in particular by ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Belgium);

137.157 Lift the measures limiting or preventing the legitimate work of members of civil society and journalists, in particular by amending the new laws governing the press, foreign non-governmental organizations and non-profit organizations in Burundi with a view to ensuring their compliance with international human rights norms (Switzerland);

137.158 Lift the legal and financial measures against human rights defenders and journalists, and prevent all acts of harassment and violence against them (Austria);

137.159 Review the laws adopted in 2017 regarding non-profit organizations and foreign non-governmental organizations, and lift suspensions and reverse the revocation of licences of media and civil society organizations so they can resume their activities with complete independence (Sweden);

137.160 Ensure the safety, and respect the independence of, all media and civil society organizations, including by withdrawing all restrictive measures adopted since April 2015 (Canada);

137.161 Allow civil society activists, journalists and international human rights organizations to carry out their work without obstruction and reprisals, including by lifting the legal and financial measures targeting them (Finland);

137.162 End all acts of reprisal, intimidation and harassment against journalists and media in and outside Burundi, and avoid new legal restrictions on media independence (Netherlands);

137.163 Put an end to the sanctions against non-governmental organizations defending human rights, media and civil society and set up a national mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders (Czechia);

137.164 Put an immediate end to any intimidation of or sanction against members of non-governmental organizations defending human rights and journalists (Estonia);

137.165 **Guarantee that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate activities independently and without fear of reprisal, prosecution or intimidation, and ensure prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all violations against them, as well as prosecution of perpetrators (Ireland);**

137.166 **Guarantee that human rights defenders can carry out their activities freely and without reprisal (Spain);**

137.167 **Take the necessary measures to ensure the full protection of human rights defenders (Georgia);**

137.168 **Take measures to prevent acts of harassment and intimidation against human rights defenders and journalists (Latvia);**

137.169 **Investigate all alleged reports of violence against, and intimidation, harassment and surveillance of, human rights defenders, and conduct prompt and impartial investigations with a view to holding the perpetrators accountable (Ghana);**

137.170 **Ensure humanitarian access and humanitarian space for all relevant actors, including human rights agencies and foreign non-governmental organizations, without discrimination, including by revising articles 16 to 19 and 29 of the new charter on foreign non-governmental organizations (Germany);**

137.171 **Take adequate measures to ensure a safe environment before, during and after the constitutional referendum scheduled for May 2018, and to guarantee freedom of expression (Haiti);**

137.172 **Allow members of the political opposition, civil society and the media to participate freely and openly in civic and political activity in Burundi (United States of America);**

137.173 **Continue efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);**

137.174 **Implement fully the national anti-trafficking action plan and establish the consultation and monitoring committee, ensuring adequate human and financial resources (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

137.175 **Build the legal framework to implement the complete protection of female domestic workers from exploitation and sexual abuse (Bahrain);**

137.176 **Continue implementing the strategic framework for growth and to combat poverty and Vision Burundi 2025 (Cuba);**

137.177 **Strengthen the capacity of national structures in charge of the implementation of strategies and plans on social and economic development (Belarus);**

137.178 **Continue strengthening the social policies undertaken in favour of the most needy sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

137.179 **Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, eradicate poverty and raise people's living standards (China);**

137.180 **Improve living conditions and, in particular, work at overcoming poverty and invest in projects for social and economic development (Holy See);**

137.181 **Develop policies and action plans for disaster response in order to reduce the negative effects of disasters on the infrastructure and poor families (Syrian Arab Republic);**

137.182 **Continue to take positive measures to better protect people's rights to education, health and housing and other rights (China);**

137.183 **Strengthen efforts to address hunger and child malnutrition in rural areas (South Africa);**

137.184 **As follow-up to the recommendation contained in paragraph 126.153 of the report of the Working Group from the second cycle, mobilize sufficient resources to significantly reduce chronic malnutrition throughout the country (Haiti);**

137.185 **Complete the ongoing judicial reforms and accelerate the revision of the Labour Code (Senegal);**

137.186 **Continue prioritizing the implementation of the national health policy 2016–2025 in order to improve the state of health of the population (Indonesia);**

137.187 **Continue efforts being taken to improve access to health through the national health policy 2016–2025 and to improve universal access to basic health education (Sri Lanka);**

137.188 **Accelerate efforts to improve health services, especially in rural areas, through effective implementation of the national health policy 2016–2025 (Maldives);**

137.189 **Further improve its health-care infrastructure in order to enhance access to health care, particularly for women from poor and rural backgrounds (India);**

137.190 **Pay in-depth attention to strengthening the health-care system; in particular, prevent the spread of infectious diseases (Russian Federation);**

137.191 **Further strengthen efforts to improve the state of health of its population through a better health system (Myanmar);**

137.192 **Continue its efforts to improve the state of health of the population (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

137.193 **Continue to take concrete measures to reduce the high ratio of maternal and infant mortality by improving access to skilled basic prenatal and postnatal care, emergency obstetric services and skilled birth attendance (Sri Lanka);**

137.194 **Continue its efforts to reduce the maternal mortality ratio and child malnutrition in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

137.195 **Reduce maternal mortality, including by improving access to basic prenatal and postnatal care (Estonia);**

137.196 **Address persistently high rates of maternal and infant mortality in the country (Nepal);**

137.197 **Continue efforts to ensure better access of the population to education and health care (Algeria);**

137.198 **Strengthen its efforts to promote access to education for all (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

137.199 **Continue efforts to pass laws, programmes and plans to promote universal access to education (Libya);**

137.200 **Further promote the policy to ensure access to education for all and full enrolment of all children in school, in line with the Government's strategy (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

137.201 **Step up legislative and political efforts to ensure access to education for all children, particularly girls, including those with disabilities, those born out of wedlock and those in a vulnerable situation (Mexico);**

137.202 **Continue to implement its education policy of universal access to basic schooling, particularly access by girls to education (Myanmar);**

137.203 **Continue efforts to increase the school enrolment rate of girls so that they have equal access to education and to fight against discrimination and violence against girls (State of Palestine);**

137.204 **Continue ensuring girls' education by abolishing school fees in basic education (Ethiopia);**

137.205 **Increase its efforts to ensure access to education for all, including girls, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (Azerbaijan);**

137.206 **Pursue its efforts to eliminate discrimination in education against girls, children with special needs, internally displaced persons, refugees, children of the Batwa minority and children with albinism (Slovenia);**

137.207 **Pay particular attention to the schooling of children with disabilities, displaced and refugee children and children with albinism (Togo);**

137.208 **Step up its efforts towards achieving gender equality (Portugal);**

137.209 **Actively promote gender equality, the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex issues, including the strengthening of the legal framework in this area (Canada);**

137.210 **Harmonize gender equality to guarantee the equal rights of men and women (Turkmenistan);**

137.211 **Repeal all discriminatory provisions and align legislation with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Latvia);**

137.212 **Accelerate the domestic law reforms in order to harmonize all laws in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and ensure their effective implementation (Albania);**

137.213 **Amend the code on persons and family and the nationality code, in order to remove the gender-based discriminatory provisions contained therein (Namibia);**

137.214 **Remove all discriminatory provisions between men and women relating to their ability to pass their nationality to their children (Sierra Leone);**

137.215 **Allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources necessary to ensure the implementation of the national gender policy (Ghana);**

137.216 **Allocate the human, technical and financial resources necessary to implement the national gender policy and, in this context, remove the obstacles that most women continue to face in the process of their economic empowerment (Mauritania);**

137.217 **Continue efforts to promote full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels (State of Palestine);**

137.218 **Strengthen the rights of women, in particular with regard to their representation in public life, as well as the fight against domestic violence and the gender pay gap (Algeria);**

137.219 **Continue the full implementation of initiatives that break barriers for the economic empowerment of women (Bahrain);**

137.220 **Continue efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women (Egypt);**

137.221 **Continue efforts to fight against gender-based violence (Morocco);**

137.222 **Step up its efforts to effectively implement its policy to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women (Honduras);**

137.223 **Continue to significantly strengthen measures combating gender-based and sexual violence against women, and consider decriminalizing certain conduct based on sexual orientation and gender identity (New Zealand);**

137.224 **Adopt effective measures to curtail violence against women and girls, thus enforcing the Law on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence, repeal legal provisions that discriminate against women and end practices such as forced marriage and child marriage (Spain);**

137.225 **Further undertake firm preventive measures to combat and prohibit all forms of violence against women committed by all parties (Thailand);**

137.226 **Adopt and implement effective measures to address sexual violence against women and girls (Maldives);**

137.227 **Continue efforts to combat gender-based violence against women and promote gender equality (Nepal);**

137.228 **Strengthen measures aimed at combating gender-based violence (Georgia);**

137.229 **Investigate cases and prosecute perpetrators of acts of violence against women, including physical abuse, rape, mutilation and torture (Poland);**

137.230 **Ensure that allegations of violence against women are thoroughly investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice (Sierra Leone);**

137.231 **Take all necessary measures to effectively enforce Act No. 1/13 of September 2016 on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence, by bringing perpetrators to justice and assuring full rehabilitation for the victims (Republic of Moldova);**[2]

137.232 **Strengthen the capacity of the criminal judiciary and enhance access to legal assistance for survivors of gender-based and sexual violence, without discrimination on any ground (Slovenia);**

137.233 **Take effective measures, including strengthening the capacity of the criminal judiciary and enhancing access to legal assistance for survivors of gender-based violence, without any discrimination, in order to punish the perpetrators of rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls (Hungary);**

137.234 **Strengthen multisectoral actions aimed at eradicating gender-based violence, considering the importance of the empowerment of rights and awareness initiatives and paying special attention to appropriate mechanisms for this purpose (Ecuador);**

137.235 **Continue implementing policies aimed at promoting women's full and equal participation in decision-making at the national and local levels (Timor-Leste);**

137.236 **Conduct campaigns for the registration of boys and girls not registered at birth, and ensure their free registration in the civil registry at any time (Mexico);**

137.237 **Prohibit child labour and raise the minimum age of employment (Timor-Leste);**

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[2] The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: "Take all necessary measures as to effectively enforce Act No. 1/13 of September 2016 on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence, by bringing perpetrators to justice and assuring full rehabilitation."

137.238 **Continue to promote the implementation of public policies on persons with disabilities (Libya);**

137.239 **Create conditions that will allow the safe and voluntary return of refugees (Holy See);**

137.240 **Step up initiatives aimed at fostering an environment for the repatriation of refugees, especially by addressing the country's serious food shortages (Japan);**

137.241 **Improve the human rights situation with regard to displaced persons (Ukraine);**

137.242 **Continue its efforts in reintegrating disaster victims by putting in place the national reintegration strategy (Ethiopia).**

138. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Burundi was headed by the minister responsible for the rights of the person, social affairs and gender, Mr. Martin Nivyabandi, and composed of the following members:

- Honorable Joseph Ntakarutimana, du Sénat;
- Honorable Godelième Nininahazwe, de l'Assemblée Nationale;
- Honorable Félix Niragira, de l'Assemblée Nationale;
- Honorable Gloriose Hakizimana, du Sénat;
- Son Excellence Madame Aimée Laurentine Kanyana, Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux;
- Monsieur Sylvestre Nyandwi, Procureur Général de la République;
- Monsieur Anicet Mahoro, Conseiller Principal chargé de la Communication à la Première Vice-Présidence de la République;
- Maître Elisa Nkerabirori, Assistante du Ministre des Droits de la Personne Humaine, des Affaires Sociales et du Genre;
- Monsieur Fréderic François Niyonahabonye, Directeur Législatif à l'Assemblée Nationale;
- Monsieur Célestin Sindibutume, Inspecteur Général au Ministère des Droits de la Personne Humaine, des Affaires Sociales et du Genre;
- Monsieur Emile Manisha, Commissaire Général de la Police Judiciaire au Ministère de la Sécurité Publique.